

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/619,379

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Applicant(s)

DURAND, ROBERT D.

Art Unit

3612

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/21/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6 and 7.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                                |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>11-22-05</u> |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment  |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                       |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |

**Examiner's Amendment and**  
**Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance**  
*Allowance (11/22/05)*

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. MacMillan.

2. The claims were amended to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicular body and frame assembly comprising:

a plurality of structural components that are secured together in such a manner as to form a space frame assembly defining an enclosed three-dimensional space for receiving occupants of a vehicle; and

a plurality of body closure panels mounted on said structural components of said space frame assembly to form the vehicular body and frame assembly, each of said plurality of body closure panels having a recess formed therein that receives a portion of an associated one of said plurality of structural components to mount said plurality of body closure panels on said structural components of said vehicle frame assembly;

a first sealing device disposed between each of said body closure panels and said plurality of structural components; and

a second sealing device provided on each of said body closure panels, said second sealing devices adapted to provide a sealed engagement with other components of the vehicular body and frame assembly.

2. (Previously Presented) The vehicular body and frame assembly defined in Claim 1 wherein each of said body closure panels is a generally flat panel having one or more open spaces provided therein to support other components of the vehicular body and frame assembly thereon.

3. (Original) The vehicular body and frame assembly defined in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of body closure panels includes at least one of a door closure panel, a front windshield closure panel, a rear windshield closure panel, and a floor pan closure panel.

4. (Original) The vehicular body and frame assembly defined in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of body closure panels includes each of a door closure panel, a front windshield closure panel, a rear windshield closure panel, and a floor pan closure panel.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) The vehicular body and frame assembly defined in Claim 1 ~~[[5]]~~ wherein each of said recesses is sized and shaped in accordance with a size and shape of said associated ones of said plurality of structural components.

7. (Currently Amended) The vehicular body and frame assembly defined in Claim 1 ~~[[6]]~~ wherein each of said recesses is sized and shaped to receive said associated ones of said plurality of structural components in a snap fit relationship.


8 - 9. (Canceled).

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:  
The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "a plurality of structural components that are secured together in such a manner as to form a space frame assembly defining an enclosed three-dimensional space for receiving occupants of a vehicle; and a plurality of body closure panels mounted on said structural components of said space frame assembly to form the vehicular body and frame assembly, each of said plurality of body closure panels having a recess formed therein that receives a portion of an associated one of said plurality of structural components to mount said plurality of body closure panels on said structural components of said vehicle frame assembly; a first sealing device disposed between each of said body closure panels and said plurality of structural components; and a second sealing device provided on each of said body closure panels, said second sealing devices adapted to provide a sealed

engagement with other components of the vehicular body and frame assembly" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

  
Kiran B. Patel, P. E.  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612  
November 22, 2005